

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claim 9 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 10-19 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on March 8, 2005. Applicant has not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the form is attached.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 10-19 are allowed, and claim 9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate all of the features of allowable claim 9. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and thus are also allowable.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,825 to Omata et al. ("Omata"). As discussed above, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of canceled claim 9. Claim 8 depends from claim 1, and thus is also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

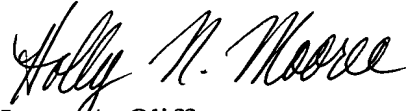
The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,991 to Nakazato et al.; rejects claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,519 to Brown; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,422 to Takeda et al. As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of canceled claim 9. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and thus are also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8, in addition to previously allowed claims 10-19, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

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Holly N. Moore

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JAO:HNM/ale

Attachments:

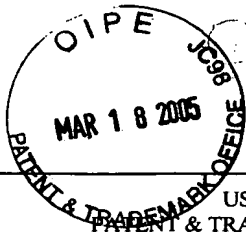
Petition for Extension of Time

Copy of March 8, 2005 Form PTO-1449

Date: March 18, 2005

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Sheet 1 of 1Form PTO-1449
(REV. 8-83)US Dept. of Commerce
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
116700APPLICATION NO.
10/628,496

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT
Atsushi KATOFILING DATE
July 29, 2003GROUP
2852

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	JP 04-69676 (w/Abstract)	03/04/1992	Japan		
	2	JP 06-167912 (w/Abstract and English-language translation)	06/14/1994	Japan		
	3	JP 11-327313 (w/Abstract and English-language translation)	11/26/1999	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date: March 8, 2005